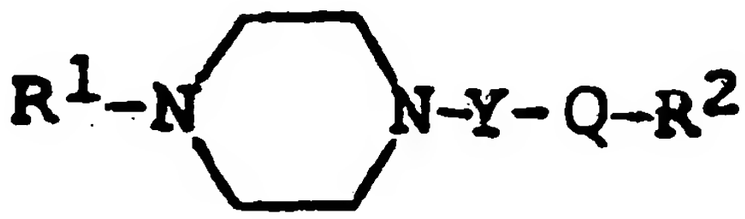
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula:



wherein R^1 is lower alkanoyl, aroyl, aroyl substituted by halo(lower)alkoxy, arylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl substituted by halogen, lower alkylsulfonyl or cyclo(lower)alkylcarbonyl;

R^2 is lower alkylamino, lower alkenylamino, lower alkynylamino, cyclo(lower)alkylamino, arylamino, or an amino group substituted with a heterocyclic group, each of which is optionally substituted with halogen;

Y is a single bond or lower alkylene; and

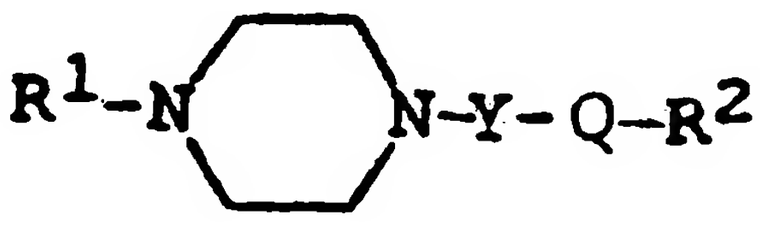
Q is -CO- or -SO_2-, and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The compound according to Claim 13, wherein

R^2 is arylamino which optionally is substituted by halogen, ~~pyridyl~~[[,]] or pyridylamino.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The compound according to Claim 13, which is 1-acetyl-4-(4-fluorophenylcarbamoyl)piperazine.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of the formula:



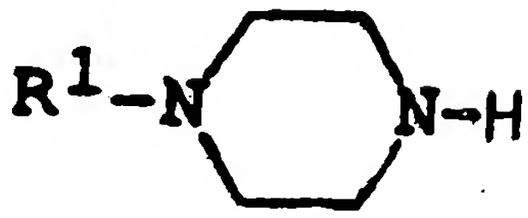
wherein R^1 is lower alkanoyl, aroyl, aroyl substituted by halo(lower)alkoxy, arylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl substituted by halogen, lower alkylsulfonyl or cyclo(lower)alkylcarbonyl;

R^2 is lower alkylamino, lower alkenylamino, lower alkynylamino, cyclo(lower)alkylamino, arylamino, or an amino group that is substituted by a heterocyclic group, each of which optionally is substituted by a substituents(s);

Y is a single bond or lower alkylene; and

Q is -CO- or $-SO_2-$, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises:

1) reacting a compound of the formula:

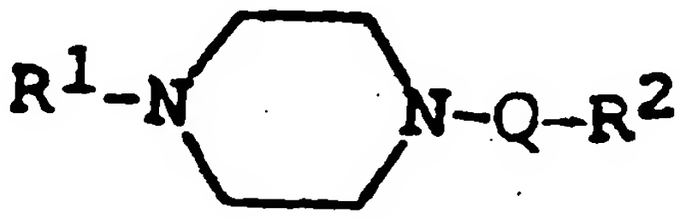


(II)

or its salt with a compound of the formula:

$$HO\text{-}Q\text{-}R^2 \qquad \text{(III)}$$

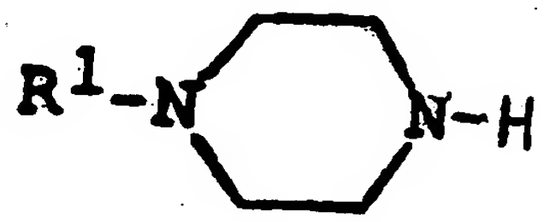
or its reactive derivative at the carboxy or sulfo group, or a salt thereof to provide a compound of the formula:



(Ia)

or its salt, in the above formulas, R^1, R^2 and Q are each as defined above;

(2) reacting a compound of the formula:

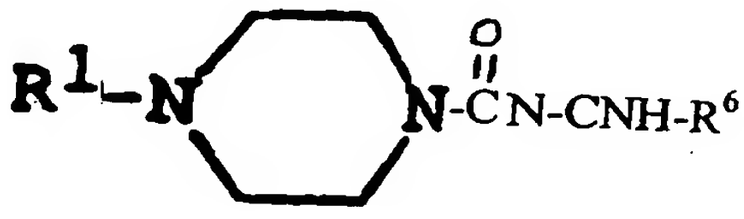


(II)

or its salt with a compound of the formula:

$$R^6\text{-}NCO \qquad \text{(IV)}$$

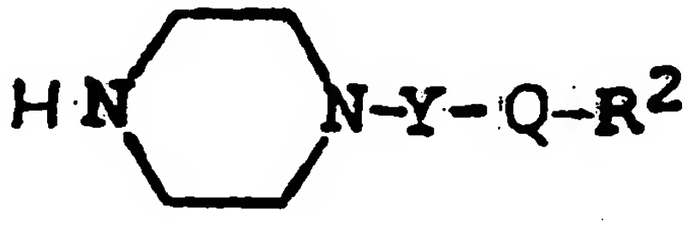
to provide a compound of the formula:



(Ib)

or its salt, wherein, in the above formulas, R^1 are each as defined above, and R^6 is aryl which may be substituted with ~~substituent(s)~~ halogen, or pyridyl, or

3) reacting a compound of the formula:

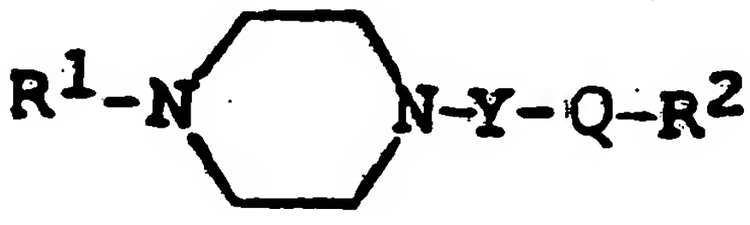


(VI)

or its salt with a compound of the formula:

R^1-OH (VII)

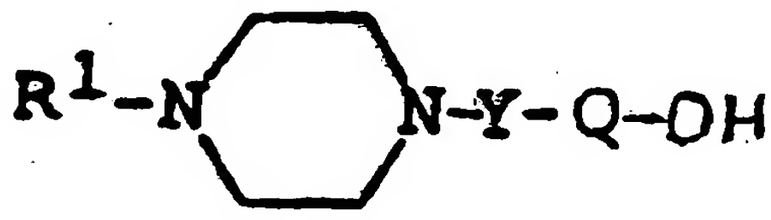
or its reactive derivative at the carboxy or sulfo group, or a salt thereof to provide a compound of the formula:



(I)

or its salt, in the above formulas, R^1, R^2 and Q are each as defined above, or

4) reacting a compound of the formula:

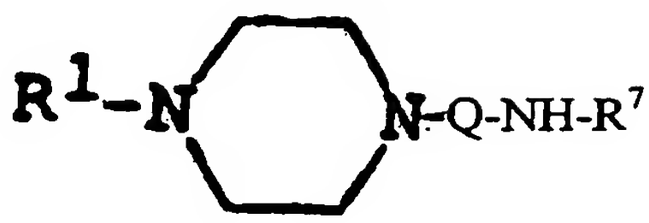


(VIII)

or its reactive derivatives at the carboxy or sulfo group, or a salt thereof with a compound of the formula:

H_2N-R^7 (IX)

or its salt to provide a compound of the formula:



(Ie)

or its salt, in the above formulas, R^1, A and Q_a are each as defined above, and

R^7 is lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, cyclo(lower)alkyl, aryl, or a heterocyclic group, each of which optionally is substituted with ~~a substituents(s)~~ halogen.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:

a compound of Claim 13, as an active ingredient, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable, substantially non-toxic carrier or excipient.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A method for the therapeutic treatment of amnesia, dementia or schizophrenia, which comprises:

administering an effective amount of a compound of Claim 13 to mammals.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The compound according to Claim 13, wherein R^1 is lower alkanoyl, benzoyl, benzoyl substituted by halo(lower)alkoxy, phenylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl substituted by halogen, lower alkylsulfonyl or cyclo(lower)alkylcarbonyl; R^2 is lower alkylamino, lower alkenylamino, lower alkynylamino, cyclo(lower)alkylamino, or

phenylamino ~~or an amino group substituted with pyridyl~~, each of which is optionally substituted with halogen;

Y is a single bond or lower alkylene; and

Q is -CO- or -SO_2-, and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The compound according to Claim 19, wherein R^2 is phenylamino which optionally is substituted by halogen, ~~pyridyl, or pyridylamino~~ and Y is a single bond.